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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Strength and Location of 54 Army Units

1. In March 1954 the Chinese Communist 54 Army, composed of the 130, 132, 134 and 135 Divisions,¹ was in the area south of Kumsong (N 38-25, 127-37) (CT-7953), the Command Post being situated on a hill southwest of Kuryong-ni (CT-761516). Before the armistice, the divisions of the 54 Army had been rotated from on line to rear areas once every 6 months, but since July 1953 rotation has been discontinued. In March 1954, units of the 54 Army were in the following locations:

- a. The 130 Division² (composed of the 388, 389 and 340³ Regiments [redacted] [redacted] was responsible for the sector between CT-764468 and CT-808441 (Hill 700).

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- (1) The 388 Regimental Headquarters was at CT-759488, the 1 Battalion being deployed from CT-798457 to CT-809441, with headquarters at CT-808443; company locations of the 1 Battalion were as follows:

- 1 Company, from CT-798457 to CT-806447.

- 2 Company, from CT-808445 to CT-801444.

- 3 Company, from CT-793458 to CT-795452.

An 82-mm. mortar company and a heavy machine gun company, from CT-806447 to CT-807443.

- (2) The 2 Battalion was deployed from CT-779479 to CT-783446.

- (3) The 3 Battalion was deployed in the Wölbong-san (CT-771456) area.

- (4) An artillery battalion was deployed from CT-775480 to CT-780464.

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- b. The 132 Division⁴ was responsible for the sector between CT-808411 and CT-840452.
- c. The 134 or 135 Division⁵ was responsible for the sector between CT-840452 and CT-870456.
2. At the end of July 1953 the 54 Army strength had been reduced to an average of six to eight men in each infantry squad. By March 1954, new infantry recruits from the Anhui and Szechuan Provinces had increased the strength to about 10 or 11 men per squad. Artillery and communications replacements had also been provided. Calculated on a basis of 10 to 11 men per squad, the estimated strength of the 388 Regiment is 5,000 men. Total 54 Army strength is an estimated 49,600.⁶ (See Attachment A for the Table of Organization of the 54 Army.)
3. An 82-mm. mortar company consists of three platoons, each of which has three seven-man squads.⁷ An infantry company consists of three infantry platoons and one 60-mm. mortar platoon. In each infantry platoon are three infantry squads and one light machine gun squad. Since the armistice the 54 Army has replaced all the Chinese-made 7.92 light machine guns with Soviet 7.62 light machine guns. A heavy machine gun company has six Soviet "Maxim" 7.62 heavy machine guns and three Chinese 7.92 guns. Each 82-mm. mortar platoon has three 82-mm. mortars. A 60-mm. mortar platoon has three 60-mm. mortars. Tanks which are organic to the army are assigned to divisions as needed. In an 82-mm. mortar company, officers, artillery gunners, and others above the rank of platoon leader carry pistols; squad leaders and couriers, PPSH's; individual soldiers are equipped with Soviet rifles, Chinese Communist personnel handgrenades, and Soviet anti-tank handgrenades.
4. In addition to the commanding officer, each Chinese Communist company has a deputy commanding officer; a political direction officer, and his assistant; a cultural instructor, a chief secretary,⁸ a correspondence clerk; and a courier. The following sections make up the administrative table of organization in 54 Army headquarters:
- a. Military Affairs Section (Personnel and mobilization) - Chun-wu-ku (6511/0523/5140)
 - b. Political Section - Cheng-chih-ku (2398/3112/5140)
 - c. Communications Section - T'ung-hsin-ku (6639/0207/5140)
 - d. Munitions Section - Chun-hsu-ku (6511/7194/5140)
 - e. Military Section (Military, artillery, and infantry staffs) - Chun-shih-ku (6511/0057/5140)
 - f. Army Political Committee - Chun-cheng-chih-wei-yuan-chang-ch'ing-nien-t'uan (6511/2398/3112/1201/0765/7022/7230/1628/0957)
 - g. Army Chinese Socialist Youth Corps - Chun-chung-kuo-she-hui-chu-i (6511/0022/0948/4357/2585/0031/5030)
 - h. Army Chinese Communist Party - Chun-chung-kuo-kung-ch'an-tang (6511/0022/0948/0364/3934/7825)

History of the 54 Army

5. Some time after August 1945, the Chinese Communist 54 Army, then the 45 Army,⁹ was created as a local guerilla force in Manchuria. It first attacked and occupied the area around Ssu-p'ing-chieh (N 42-32, E 125-08) in Manchuria,

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then Tientsin in China. It then advanced further southward, and by September 1949 occupied the entire province of Kwangtung. There the army recruited and trained additional troops from the Hunan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung Provinces. In December 1952, the 130 Division, as an advance force, left Canton, Kwangtung Province, and traveled by train through the Hunan and Hupeh Provinces and the cities of Hankow, Shanghai, and Mukden to Antung where it arrived on 6 or 7 February 1953. There were 10 or 11 men per squad, rather than the authorized strength of 12 men. After 3 days the division crossed the Yalu River into Sinuiju and marched to Ch'olsan (N 39-46, E 124-40). For the next 3 or 4 months the division was responsible for the defense of a portion of Korea's western coast. During this time the other divisions of the army also arrived in Korea. In June 1953 the 54 Army was on line in the Kumsong area. In China the 54 Army belonged to the 4 Field Army of the Chinese Central South Military Area People's Liberation Forces. After its entry into Korea it became known as the 54 Army of the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces. [REDACTED]

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6. Some time in 1953 Chinese Communist unit designations were changed from Army, Chun (6511); Division, Shih (1597); Regiment, T'uan (0957); Battalion, Ying (3602); Company, Lien (6647); Platoon, P'ai (2226); and Squad, Pan (3803); to Army, Chun; Division, Tatui (1129/7130); Regiment, Ch'utui (0575/7130); Battalion, Chung-tui (0022/7130); Company, Fentui (0433/7130); Platoon, P'ai; and Squad, Pan.

Post-Armistice Activity in the 54 Army

7. Following the armistice the principal activity of the army was political, cultural, and military training. Political training pertained to reconstruction of the country according to Communist principles. Cultural training consisted of reading books on Communism and of reading such newspapers as The People's News. Military training was devoted to combat drill in the mountain areas in which the units were situated. The men were also engaged in constructing trenches and billets with wood procured in the vicinity. In November and December 1953 the 1 Battalion, 388 Regiment built a road two meters wide from CT-798457 through the mountains to battalion headquarters at CT-808443. The road was used to transport supplies by horse and ox carts to the headquarters. By March 1954 a road had been made passable for motor vehicles from 388 Regiment headquarters at CT-759488 to CT-755510, along the east side of the mountains. In July 1953 a one-way wooden bridge four feet high was constructed across the stream at CT-755510. There was no military police checkpoint at the bridge. Immediately following the armistice, 54 Army sentry posts along the demarcation line were maintained day and night at 300-meter intervals. In March 1954 one guard was on duty during the day and three at night, at 100-meter intervals.

Personalities

8. The following officers are assigned to the 54 Army:

a. CHAO Fu-shun (6392/4395/7311), commanding officer, 388 Regiment, 130 Division, 54 Army. [REDACTED]

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b. HSIEH (6200)(fnu),¹⁰ chief of the 54 Army Political Committee and of the Chinese Socialist Youth Corps.¹¹

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c. TING Sheng (0002/4141), commanding general, 54 Army. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] In addition to his duties as commanding general of the army he is responsible for all CCP affairs in the army. He was formerly in the Eighth Route Army.

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Army Political Organizations

9. Political activity in the Chinese Communist forces (CCF) is carried out by both the CCP and the Chinese Socialist Youth Corps. Commanders are responsible for CCP affairs in their respective units, and political commissioners and political direction officers are responsible for the youth corps organizations. Squad leaders, assistant squad leaders, and staff officers above the rank of platoon commander in the 54 Army are CCP members.
10. An enlisted man desiring to join the CCP submits his application to his platoon commander through his squad leader. The platoon commander, company commander, and political direction officer and his deputy meet to discuss the applicant's deportment, accomplishments while in service, and his ideology. The results of the discussion are forwarded with the application to battalion level where the papers are studied by the battalion commander, assistant battalion commander, and political direction officer and his deputy. If the application is approved at battalion level, the individual becomes a CCP member. Men from poor families are given priority consideration. A private who was a CCP member prior to enlisting or who joins the party soon thereafter may be appointed squad leader or assistant squad leader. If he continues to be an enthusiastic Communist and if his military record is good, he may be promoted, even though he is without education.
11. Members of the Chinese Socialist Youth Corps are between the ages of 18 and 25 years. Application for membership is forwarded from the squad leader through the platoon commander to the company political direction officer. The application is then handled at company and at battalion level in the same manner as is the application for membership in the CCP.
12. Pay in the CCF is 80,000 yuan for enlisted men, 100,000 for squad leaders, and 150,000 for platoon commanders. In each company articles from China, such as the following, are available for sale to the men:

ARTICLEPRICE (in Chinese yuan)

Soldier's diary ¹²	4,500
Flashlight	10,000
Toilet soap	5,000
Towel	4,000
Fountain pen	5,000
Candy (wheat gluten)(6 kilograms)	5,000
Socks (pair)	7,000

13. Summer uniforms were to be issued on or about 10 May. Clothing was issued at company level and recorded in the Company Clothing Registration Table which was kept by the company's chief secretary. No record of issued clothing, of weapons, or of other supplies was given to individual soldiers. Since December 1953 soldiers have worn a Comfort Team Commemoration medal usually pinned on the inner garment. Since the armistice, CCF soldiers have worn on the left chest of the outer garment a white cloth patch about 3-1/2 by 1-1/2 inches in size. It is either sewn on or hooked to the uniform. On the front are Chinese characters in black ink which read "Chinese People's Volunteer Forces." About an eighth of an inch in from the hem on four sides is a border line in red ink. Stamped on the reverse side in Chinese characters are the individual's branch of service, his duty assignment, the characters Kung Yuan (0361/0337), the soldier's serial number which consists of a Roman letter followed by a four or five-digit number and another Roman letter, and the year. Stamped in red ink is the chop of the issuing authority. The soldier's name and the month and day of issue of the patch are written in black brush strokes. The reverse side of the patch appears as follows:

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Branch of Service	C 00000 C	Name
Duty	Commander's Chop	
Kung Yuan	Year, month, day	

14. The only documentation provided to the men of the 388 Regiment after their entry into Korea was an inoculation certificate issued in May 1953. A soldier leaving his unit area on official business was given an exit certificate, a printed form bearing the name of the commanding officer. The exit certificate was good for travel within a radius of 10 to 30 li.
15. In November 1953 North Korean families began moving into the Kumsong area from the north, to resettle and farm. Troops stationed nearby were mobilized to help build grass-roofed houses for the farmers. (See Attachment B for sketch showing the areas which have been opened to the civilian population.)

25X1 1. [] Comment. As of 6 April, according to a weekly field publication of another American agency, the 54 Army is composed of the 130, 135, and the 161 Divisions; the 134 Division having been redesignated as the 161. As of 14 April the same publication reported the 130 Division as being deployed from approximately CT-7244 to CT-8344; the 135 Division north of the demilitarized zone from CT-8345 to the Pukhan River (CT-9245) and the 161 Division in the 54 Army reserve. As of February, according to available information, the 132 Division is subordinate to the 43 Army, on Hainan Island, Kwangtung. The 130 and 132 Divisions were subordinate to the 44 Army prior to that army's deactivation in October 1952. Some of the personnel of the 132 Division were believed to have been integrated at that time into the 54 Army.

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25X1 2. [] Comment. During combat the 130 is one of the offensive divisions.

25X1 3. [] Comment. Possibly 390 Regiment is meant.

25X1 4. [] Comment. This division has been a defensive force and has never engaged in combat.

25X1 5. []

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25X1 6. [] Comment. [] all CCF armies in Korea are accepted at 85 percent of T/O strength (40,400 per army; 11,800 per division). The AFPE Summary, Change 2, dated 22 March 1954, assessed the strength of the 54 Army at 43,441. [] having identified four, rather than three, divisions in the 54 Army accounts in part for the fact that [] strength estimate is unusually large.

25X1 7. [] Comment. In the 388 Regiment, from the armistice until March 1954, strength of the 82-mm. mortar company was only five or six men per squad.

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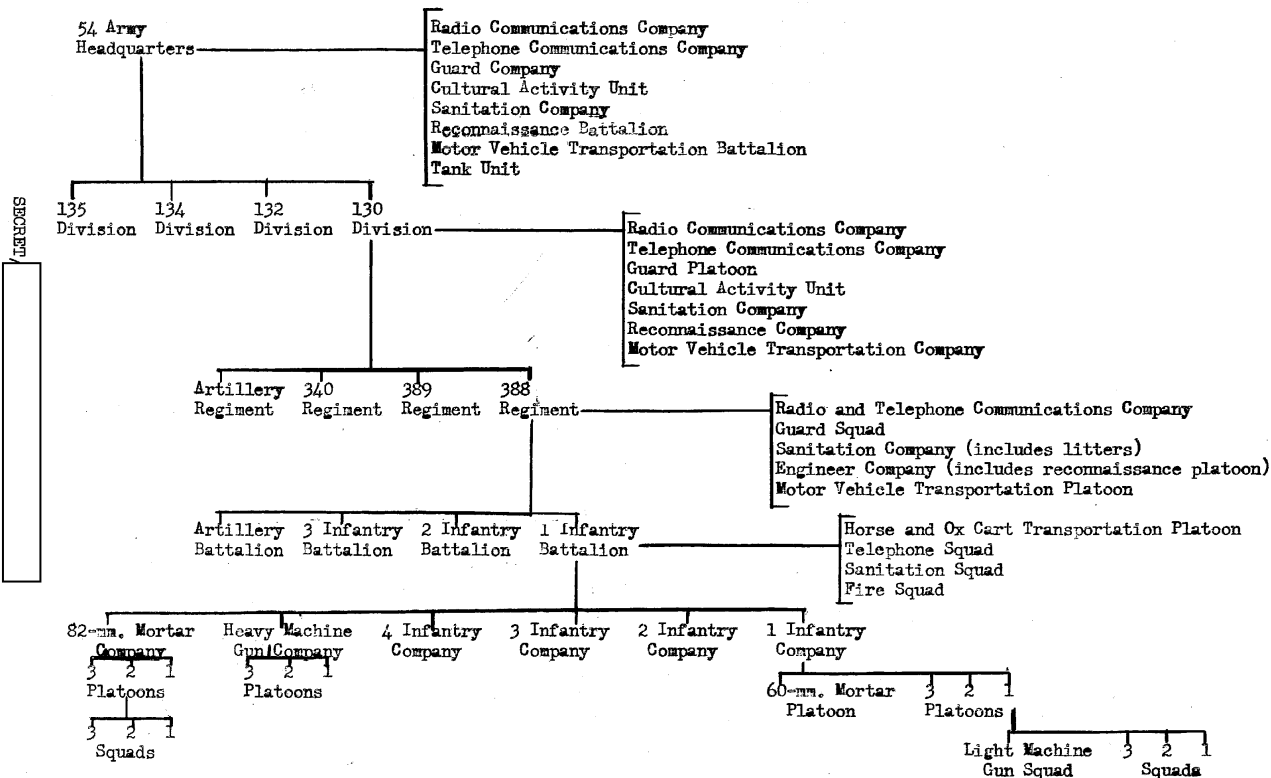
- 25X1 8. [] Comment. The chief secretary (Sa Mu-chang) is a member of the company staff and is responsible for administration and finance. He is treated as an officer.
- 25X1 9. [] Comment. The exact date when the name of the 45 Army was changed to 54 Army is unknown.
- 25X1 10. [] Comment. According to AFPE Listings of the Chinese Communist Ground Forces in Korea, HSIEH Ming is chief of the Political Section, Headquarters, 54 Army.
- 25X1 11. [] Comment. The name of the New Democratic Youth League was changed to the Chinese Socialist Youth Corps in January 1954 because Communist China has progressed to the stage of Socialist construction (sic).
- 25X1 12. [] Comment. A notebook, referred to as a soldier's diary, was owned by many soldiers. The troops could also purchase other notebooks with red leather or plastic covers, which contained pictures of MAO Tse-tung, CHU Teh, and others.

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ATTACHMENT A

54 Army Table of Organization



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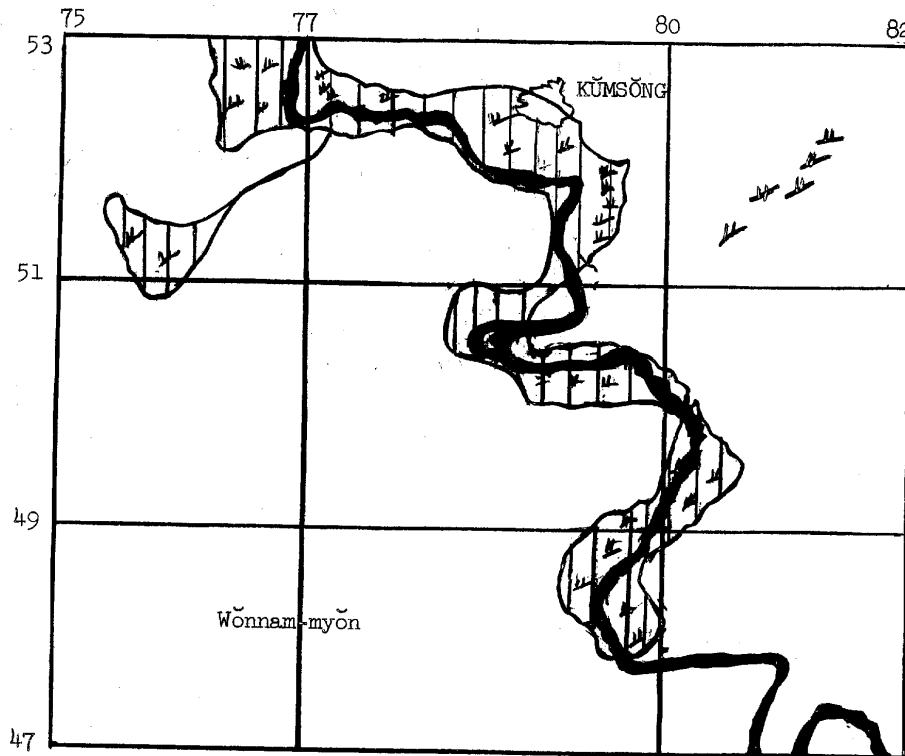
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ATTACHMENT B

Locations of Civilian Resettlement in the CT Area



Map scale: 1:50,000

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